

Dear Mayor and Council

I would like to thank council for being open to reading and listening to the residents of the Millar Addition. I would also like to thank Ron Polillo and Kyla Sampson for their willingness to walk through the neighborhood. There was immediate health impacts which include toxic smoke filtering through neighborhood through the burning of plastics and garage materials. I have personally had to call on neighbours for help due to person approaching my home and not leaving. Later this individual chased a neighbour with their pants down and was run off by another neighbour. I have called the fire department five times in March of 2024 due to fires. This does not include the calls last year due to fires and bylaw services. When going out in the community my ability to travel through the community has changed due to the quality of air. I have had to change where to run in order to protect my lungs from the smoke entering the neighborhood on a regular basis. I have gotten in verbal arguments trying to stop trees from being cut down on the boulevard. When walking my dog, I am now acutely aware of the drug related materials that has been left on the boulevard and under the bridge. During my morning walks I have observed needles, and drugs pipes. I am more aware of my surroundings and ensuring that my home and car are locked and installing security devices.

The encampment has had multiple clean ups since conception, and this has not resulted in no long-term improvements to the area. The encampment does not appear to be supported in a manner to help the residents make any changes. The material around each building continues to grow and the sanitation does not appear to meet the needs of the people. The encampment has had multiple police incidents of violent crime. These incidents affect the safety of both the encampment residents and Millard Addition residents.

I am concerned with the ongoing issues related to the encampment and the ability of BC housing to create a process that is accessible to people in need of housing. The proposal to create a temporary site should only be granted if the encampment is to be dissolved upon completion. That the residents of the encampment be the priority when it comes to the temporary site to be housed. That the site is staffed to meet the needs of the residents of the temporary site to ensure their safety and ability to transition to permit housing. That the site is built to ensure safety of the residents, staff and Millar Addition.

K.A. MacDonald (Millar Addition Resident)